

### **LEVEL 3 ENCOURAGES THINKING RIDERS**

Riders focus on refining the use of their aids and other technical aspects of good horsemanship.

#### **LEVEL 3**

##### **INCLUDES:**

- Leads at the canter or lope
- More involved transitions
- More complex rein, leg and seat aids
- Backing
- Improving the seat at the trot and canter
- Riding bareback
- Ring figures
- Western riders begin turn backs on the rail (a training movement, preparing for roll backs)
- English riders work on basic dressage movements, riding on contact, lines of fences, new types of jumps, and simple courses up to two feet
- Trail riding includes considerations for longer rides, securing horses on the trail, cook out or picnic rides, trail courtesy, environmental issues, and cantering on trail

##### **THE HORSE SENSE SECTION COVERS:**

- Feeds and feeding
- Bits and biting
- Artificial aids
- Care of equipment

*Instructors at this level must have much stronger technical knowledge and risk management skills, as the students will have more confidence, be moving at faster gaits, and doing more complex and potentially higher risk activities. Students may be overconfident requiring the instructor to be especially vigilant.*

### **LEVEL 4 SERVES AS A STEPPING STONE TO SPECIALIZED RIDING**

It offers considerable challenge to riders as they are actually schooling horses and/or preparing them for competitive riding.

#### **IN LEVEL 4**

##### **THE RIDER SHOULD UNDERSTAND:**

- Horse balance and collection
- Extension and working gaits
- Evaluation of their own performance and that of the horse
- English riders work on dressage movements requiring flexion and bending, lengthening and shortening, half halts, leg yielding, turns on the forehand and haunches, and lead changes
- Jumping includes gymnastic jumping, combinations, cross country, more complex courses, and rating the horse for better take off point and control
- Western work includes perfecting transitions, balanced stops from the lope, pivots, side passing, lead changes, roll backs, head set and collection
- Trail riding includes conditioning for long rides and overnight camping considerations

##### **THE HORSE SENSE SECTION COVERS:**

- Signs of unsoundness
- Hoof care
- Conformation
- Vaccinations
- Deworming

*Level 4 instructors need to be extremely knowledgeable in every aspect of horse sport as it relates to their riding style. They need to be able to design specific exercises for individual riders to help them attain their riding goals. They must be able to manage every aspect of the riding program. The instructor needs to be able to develop the horses and program from the basics up.*

For more information on CHA Standard Program see **CHA HORSEMANSHIP MANUAL**.

